

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Docket No.: KN-71

Applicant : Wolfgang Barbett, et al
Serial No. : NOT YET KNOWN
Filed : CONCURRENTLY HEREWITH
For : ARTICULATION SLEEVE FOR A CLAMP

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

The attention of the Examiner and of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

German references 37 29 372 C2 and 299 24 269 U1 are discussed in the specification. An English translation of the Japanese reference is provided.

German reference 102 17 750 A1 is directed to a clamp with a clamp band whose end portions are placed around sleeve-like or bolt-like, particularly laterally flattened articulation parts 13, 14, wherein the end portions form loops 2, 3 attached to the clamp band 1 and each having a closed slot 4, 5, wherein the articulation parts 13, 14 have transverse bores and a clamping screw 11 having a head 12 extends through the slots 4, 5 and the transverse bores 16, wherein the clamping screw 11 is screwed into a thread in the

transverse bore 16 of one articulation part or in a nut 21 with the head 12 resting against the other articulation part 14. Each loop 2, 3 has on an inner side thereof a projection 19 which rests against the respective articulation part 13, 14 in the free space 20 between the legs of the loop 2, 3.

With the submission of this admitted prior art, applicant thus complies with the duty of disclosure as set forth at 37 CFR 1.56.

Respectfully submitted,

By F. Kueffner

FK:ml
Encls: PTO-1449
w/four (4) references

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 31, 2004

F. Kueffner

Friedrich Kueffner

| Form PTO-1449 LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT | | | | Docket No.: KN-71 | Serial No.: not known | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| Exam. Init. | | Document Number | Date | NAME | Class | Subclass | Filing Date if appropriate |
| | AA | | | | | | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | Document Number | Date | COUNTRY | Class | Subclass | <u>TRANSLATION</u> |
| | AK | 299 24 269 U1 | 1/03 | GERMANY | | | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AL | 3 7 2 9 3 7 2 | 9/89 | GERMANY | | | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AM | 102 17 750 A1 | 11/03 | GERMANY | | | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AN | 2001-193720 A | 7/01 | JAPAN | | | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | AO | | | | | | |
| OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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